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Officials Break Ground on New U.S. Courthouse

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA – Members of the Iowa congressional delegation joined local community leaders and federal officials today to break ground on a new \$160-million federal courthouse at 111 7th Avenue SE.

The courthouse, scheduled to be complete in late 2012, will be home to the Northern District of Iowa Courts, which is part of the U.S. 8th Circuit Court of Appeals.

“This day marks the beginning of a new era for the federal courts and the community of Cedar Rapids,” said Michael T. Brincks, GSA’s acting Regional Administrator. “Our team is poised and ready to finally deliver this long-awaited courthouse project.”

In 2002, Congress approved design funding for a new courthouse to replace the existing 1930s-era courthouse. For financial reasons, however, the project was not funded for construction until severe flooding in 2008 forced an emergency relocation of courthouse operations into leased space. With the old courthouse in need of major repairs, Congress approved construction funding for the previously planned 288,000-square-foot courthouse project.

“With the old courthouse crippled by the flood, something had to be done to help rejuvenate this area. We can thank Senator Harkin, Senator Grassley and Congressman Loebsack for taking action and securing the funds needed for this project,” Brincks said.

The new courthouse will be eight stories tall and include five courtrooms, as well as space for the U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Attorney, Probation Services and Pretrial Services. There will also be space for GSA and local congressional offices.

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